SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, If you see historically, we produced more than the demand. If you go back to the 6th Plan, the demand was 168 million tonnes; actual was 139 million tonnes and we produced 147 million tonnes. In the 7th Plan, the demand was 236 million tonnes as per the assessment of the Planning Commission, the actual was 191 million tonnes and we produced 201 million tonnes. In the 8th Plan, the demand was 325 million tonnes and it was reduced as low as to 295 million tonnes which we produced. Sir, I can assure the House that we will produce as per our target.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Sir, the difference between the present production and the demand projected by the Coal Ministry is 108 million tonnes. I am afraid that in the present financial condition of the coal industry it will not be possible for them to produce this much of quantity. My specific question is: How much coal can be produced practically; not on paper? It is a history of the coal industry to produce on paper. Even in reply to another question, the Minister has said, "We has surplus coal stock of worth Rs. 1300 crores". But, I know for granted that many wagons are left behind for want of coal because there is no coal stock. So, I would like to know from the Minister what the genuine production will be and whether we will be achieving that by the terminal year of the 9th Plan. Sir, I would also like to know what methods they are going to evolve to improve the quality of coal to meet the challenges of globalisation and quality. Sir, 12 per cent as Content coal has been supplied by foreign suppliers. Our coal is of 40 per cent ash. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to compete in the international market in this kind of a situation. Please clarify this position.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan, we should be producing almost 320 million tonnes of coal. regarding ash content in the imported coal and our coal, I would like to submit that nature has given us this kind of coal. The ash content is 12 per cent in the imported coal and it is almost 30 per cent to 40 per cent in our coal.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Sir, it is wrong to say that nature has given us this kind of coal. Actually, nature has given us the best coal. We can produce a better coal than others. But, we always opt for easier mining i.e., open cast mining and in the process, we even reduce the quality of coal which is available to us. So, it is better to improve the method of mining than blaming the nature.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, we started this surface mining system in which coal comes out as layers and does not get mixed up with the coal and I think, we should be producing a better coal.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, I am putting a supplementary question to what my learned friend has asked. In India, the high calorific coal is in short supply. This is the reason why we are importing coal from foreign countries. But, at the same time, what I feel is, washery facilities have to be developed in India for coal-mines so that we can reduce the ash content. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan to develop the washery facilities in India so that coal of high calorific value of coal could be supplied to the States.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, now we have got 22 coal washeries with us. We are also thinking of allowing private investment to come in for washeries to improve the quality of coal.

*145. *[The questioner (Shri Ramji Lal) was absent. For answer, vide col. 33 Infra]*

Production from Ravva Oil Wells in Andhra Pradesh

*146. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of crude oil at

Ravva oil wells in Andhra Pradesh has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to normalise the production from the oil field?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) There was disruption in production from the field due to SPM failure during August—Novermber, 1998.

(c) Production has been been resumed with effect from 28.11.98.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Sir, according to the hon. Minister, the production of crude oil at the off-shore Ravva Oil Wells in the Krishna-Godavari basin of East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh has been disrupted during the months of August to November, 1998, and the production was resumed from 28th November, 1998. Sir, they have taken three-and-a-half months for repairs and to resume production. My question is, why have they taken three-and-a-half months for repairs, what are the reasons behind this?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to bad climate and weather the production in the Ravva Oil Wells was disturbed. They have to pump the crude oil to off-shore tanking vessels through a Single Point Module System. This is another kind of platform like the drilling platform. Unfortunately, this platform was crippled and all the eighteen bolts in the Single Point Module System were destroyed. This could not be repaired and it was to be replaced. It is because of this, the joint venture companies had to spend approximately US $ 5.3 million to replace this SPM. So, the total period of non-operation was 110 days but the production has started after 80 days. I would also like to submit that because of the availability of tankers, we could pump crude oil and it could hold the stock. Previously, the production from the Ravva Oil Wells was 35,000 barrels per day. Earlier, because we could not make production, more and more water we pumped in the wells to maintain the pressure. But, now, you will be glad to know that the Ravva Oil Wells are producing 45,000 barrels per day.

श्री रामगोपाल यादव: श्रीमन्, यह जितने भी आयल फील्ड हैं, वहां से जो तेल निकाला जाता है या कुछ आयल निकाला जाता है, धीरे-धीरे इस फील्ड में जो रिज़र्वायर है, उसमें वह होता चला जाता है और नेचुरली डिक्लाइन होता जाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि रव्वा आयल फील्ड में लगभग कितना क्रूड आयल का स्टोर होगा और जिस रफ्तार से आप इसे निकाल रहे हैं यह कितने दिनों तक खत्म हो जाएगा या कितने दिनों तक के लिए है?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Ravva oil filed was discovered by the ONGC in 1986. The estimated total deposit of the field recoverable reserves was, 30.16 million tons oil and condensers. By 1.4.98, the estimated gas production is going to be 4.88 million cubic tons. This well is being operated by the joint ventures. ONGC has 40 per cent share; Messrs Videocon 25 per cent share; Ravva Oil Singapore Private Limited 12.5 per cent share. Messrs. Kamal & Petroleum India Limted Operator has been taken over by Messrs Kain Energy India Limited. So, it is a joint venture operation. Sir, the estimated deposit will last for another 25 years.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Krishna and Godavari basin there is a large on-shore and off-shore oil potential. Now, it is being transported by road and sea route to Visakhapatnam and Chennai. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to set up a refinery in that basin either in the public sector or private sector.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there is a great potential in the Godavari and Krishna basins. At present in Visakhapatnam we have a public sector refinery called the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. In Chennai there is one refinery called the Madras refineries Ltd. Since after 1.4.98 we have withdrawn the

licensing policy of the refineries, so now anybody can come without any licenence and open a refinery. I think there is a pending application with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for creating a private refinery at Kakinada. So far as the public sector is concerned, there is no such proposal today.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister had said that it had taken 110 days to begin the production in this oil well. It is because of the fact that the rigs were damaged or destroyed due to some or the other reasons. It takes a very long time to rectify the mistakes and to make it workable. Based on this experience, has the Petroleum and Natural Gas establishments made any arrangements or is there any mechanism—when such destruction takes place or some fault appears—to see that those are set right within the shortest possible time? Otherwise, we are incurring huge losses due to production losses.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTY: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the mistakes should be rectified and the particular portion of the defaulter machine should be replaced in the shortest time. As I explained to you in the beginning, this is a platform which is receiving the crude oil pumped in from the well to the offshore storage tanks. This has been completely destroyed as it was to be replaced. There was no question of rectification. As I have already mentioned, nearly $6 billion dollars have been spent on that. But as on date, our technology having the shortest methods is the best way with which we could rectify the mistakes.

Sir, I will also share this information with the House that this production loss which we incurred during these eighty days will be made up within a year because of increased production.

SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: For quite some time the ONGC had been operating in Nagaland, especially in the Champang oilfield for extraction of crude oil. Of late it has stopped operating there more because of the insurgency problem and also because of the local problem. I would like to know whether the Government of India is making any effort to review its decision with regard to extraction of crude oil especially in Nagaland.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for raising this issue. Our estimation in regard to the potential of oil and gas deposits in the North-East is very high. We have been able to extract it. Unfortunately the local laws are such that instead of the royalty being paid to the Government, the local law says that it should be paid to the Panchayat and other community leaders. We have not been able to resolve it. Even the Nagaland Government is not coming forward to resolve it. So, we have stopped this operation. Only after resolution of these could it be done. Apart from the insurgency issue, this also is one major issue. We were forced to stop it. Whenever the Nagaland Governmet comes forward and settles the issue, we will be able to do it. We are prepared to pay royalty as per the Royalty Act existing in our country.

White Paper on ISI Activities

*147. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:†
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have details of the ISI activities;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring a White Paper on ISI activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A White Paper is being prepared and is proposed to be presented to Parliament soon.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government has any action plan to tackle the ISI activities in the country and